**INTERCESSIONS FOR SUNDAY, 21st JUNE 2020**

**Almighty God, our heavenly father**, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

We praise you our Lord, in this period of Trinity, our Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the sacrifice, Jesus made on our behalf.

For all the learnings and acts of discipline taken by our congregation, during this period of uncertainty and increased anxiety, we thank you.

Strengthen all who work on our behalf through the HISJ executive, as well as all who work in your name throughout the world. Especially want to ask for prayers for David, Paulette, Jane, plus churchwardens and officers who are maintaining parish business, as well as looking to support our congregation at this time. This was evident in the vigil held last Sunday for the Grenfell fire victims, where so many took solace in being able to reflect, and come together in person – not common experience in recent times.

We look for your inspiration as you have taught us, and look to live in the ideals of loving our neighbours, and sharing your glory with others.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Bless and guide all those in authority, and give wisdom to those governing here, and every nation in the ways of justice and peace. We pray for tolerance, and an ability to capture the power of truth in these times to reassure, and not twist facts and indulge in deflection of genuine pain.

A paraphrase of quote from St Francis of Assisi

*‘Where there is discord, may there be harmony. Where there is error, may there be truth. Where there is doubt, may there be faith. And where there is despair, may there be hope’*

This is not a time for empty words and token gestures – we ask to find in ourselves, and with others, the strength to make a positive difference, and learn to listen and understand other voices and life experiences to our own.

Look with mercy O Lord on this world torn apart by war and civil strife. We look to the leaders of all faiths to lead the path of not isolating communities. Our prayers are with the peoples of the refugee camps, the favelas, the dispossessed and displaced, who are enduring conditions that are heightened further by very real possibility of further disease. We trust that your love will shine upon those trying to formulate peace and find solutions to unrest through concord over fighting.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for the many who have suffered and paid the ultimate price of COVID-19, as well as those who are experiencing illness short or long term.

To those who are caring first hand in hospitals and homes, those going to work to keep our nation stable and fed, we thank you for empowering their spirit and fortitude.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind and spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles. For those recovering from illness we are grateful, and wish them speed in regaining strength.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

We keep our Gift a Little donation plea, as part of the Parish fundraising efforts in these times, highlighting further the need to think of our building, even when so many other concerns demanding our attention currently.

Thank you once more for providing the positivity, which many of our church have shown in responding to the latest appeal.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Give grace to us, our families and friends and to all our community, that we may look to Christ and live by his teachings, and aim to share love as he loves us. We celebrate the coming of summer and the welcome intermittent rains of late. Praise you Lord.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Father, we pray for those who have lost a special friend or relation recently, and to those members of our families who have passed, and whose anniversary we recall. Let us find solace in the memories and joy they brought us, and our desire for them to be part of the heavenly afterlife.

We especially think of those effected from within our own community of Holy Innocents at this time, when we have been less able to pay our respects as we would have wished.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace **and rise in glory**

*We pray with Mary*

Hail Mary, full of Grace the Lord is with thee, Blessed art thou amongst all women

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God

Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

**Amen**

Merciful Father, Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, **Amen**